(b) the impact of the increased international price on consumers; and

(c) the action proposed or measures taken to cushion the impact of the increased international price on consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) A comparison of the quantity and value of crude oil imports for the period April-October 2002 with the period April-October 2001 is given below:

April-October 2002		April-October 2001	
Quantity (TMT)*	Value (Rs. crore)	Quantity (TMT)*	Value (Rs. crore)
49,294	44,368	45,714	38,197

*TMT: Thousand Metric Tonnes

The crude oil import bill for the remaining period of the current year will depend upon the actual imports and the crude oil prices during the balance period.

(b) and (c) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the fluctuations in the international oil prices are bound to get reflected in the domestic consumer prices of petroleum products. In the case of excessive volatility in the international oil market, the Government may intervene to partially contain the impact of such volatility on domestic prices.

LPG distributors in Assam

1450. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of distributorships of LPG connections in the State of Assam;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list for getting LPG connections with these distributors, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the LPG connections are likely to be granted to wait-listed persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 208 LPG distributorships in the State of Assam for distribution of LPG connections.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no registered waiting list with the LPG distributors of OMCs and LPG connections are available on demand in all the existing LPG markets throughout the country, including the State of Assam.

VRS in ONGC and BPCL

1451. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce revised VRS Scheme for ONGC and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme is proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have submitted proposals for introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). The proposed Schemes contain certain deviations from Department of Public Enterprises Guidelines dated 05.05.2000 and are under examination.

Export of LPG

1452. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been exporting LPG to Bangladesh and other countries;

(b) what is the quantum of exports to foreign countries per annum and the amount of foreign exchange earned per annum;

(c) whether it is proposed to double the LPG export to Bangladesh, as reported in the Financial Express of 17th August, 2002; and

(d) whether this will affect home consumption?